CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: CH-62 (PACS C115) **Construction Date:** circa 1830, 1906
Name: Christ Episcopal Church
Location: 100 Block of Charles Street, La Plata, Charles County

Private/Religious/Occupied/Excellent/Restricted

Description:

Christ Episcopal Church was previously inventoried by the Maryland Historical Trust in the 1970s; however, an extensive survey form was not completed. Christ Episcopal Church is a 1½-story Victorian Gothic Revival Church on the north side of Charles Street in downtown La Plata, Charles County. The church was originally constructed circa 1830 next to the courthouse in the town of Port Tobacco, replacing an earlier church destroyed in a storm. In 1906, after the Charles County seat had been moved from Port Tobacco to La Plata, the church was dismantled, moved to La Plata, and rebuilt in the Victorian Gothic Revival style. The church has a nave and side aisles, a centered arched entry, and an off-center 4-story bell tower at the southwest corner. In 1938, a parish hall was constructed and connected to the church by a hyphen. The structure has an asphalt shingle, dual-pitch front-gable roof with five dormers on both roof planes. The church is of stone construction. All windows, including the dormer windows, are gothic-arch windows with stained glass, and there is a large gothic-arch window with a centered rose window on the south, or front elevation. The exposed elevations of the bell tower have gothic-arch windows on the first three stories and gothic-arch louvers on the top level. The west and east elevations have four gothic-arch windows, and a projecting bay at the rear of the church. The bay on the west elevation has a wood door and steps to grade. The parish hall, which is oriented perpendicular to the church, has an asphalt shingle, front-gable roof, an arched entry, and buttresses on the south and north elevations. The parish hall is of stuccoed concrete block construction, and it is connected to the church at the southwest corner. The windows are 8-light casements, and there are two exit doors at the rear.

Significance:

Christ Episcopal Church was erected in downtown La Plata in 1906, using building materials from the previous Christ Episcopal Church, located in Port Tobacco. The congregation is one of the oldest in the area, originally established by act of the provincial assembly in 1692. Although the building has undergone some alterations, it is a good examples of a late Victorian Gothic church.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
U.S. 301 South Corridor Transportation Study

DOE _yes _no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)
historic Christ Episcopal Church
and/or common

2. Location:
street & number 100 Block of Charles Street _ not for publication
city, town La Plata _ vicinity of congressional district
state Maryland county Charles

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
_district	_public	x occupied	_agriculture	_museum
x building(s)	x private	_unoccupied	_commercial	_park
_structure	_both	_work in progress	_education	_private
_site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	_entertainment	residence
_object	_in process	x yes: restricted	_government	x religious
	_being considered	_yes: unrestricted	_industrial	_scientific
	x not applicable	_no	_military	_other:
			_transportation	

4. Owner of Property: (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)
name Vestry of Port Tobacco Parish
street & number P.O. Box 760 telephone no.:
city, town La Plata state and zip code MD 20646

5. Location of Legal Description
Land Records Office of Charles County liber 15
street & number 101 Catalpa Drive folio 129
city, town La Plata state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys
title Inventory of Historic Sites in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties
date 1980 _federal x state _county _local
depository/survey records Maryland Historical Trust
city, town Crownsville state Maryland

7. Description Survey No.: CH-62 (PACS C115)

Condition			**Check one**	**Check one**
x excellent	_deteriorated	_unaltered	_original site	
_good	_ruins	x altered	x moved	date of move 1906
_fair	_unexposed			

Resource Count: 1

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Christ Episcopal Church was previously inventoried by the Maryland Historical Trust in the 1970s; however, an extensive survey form was not completed. Christ Episcopal Church is a 1½-story Victorian Gothic Revival Church on the north side of Charles Street in downtown La Plata, Charles County. The church was originally constructed circa 1830 next to the courthouse in the town of Port Tobacco, replacing an earlier church destroyed in a storm. In 1906, after the Charles County seat had been moved from Port Tobacco to La Plata, the church was dismantled, moved to La Plata, and rebuilt in the Victorian Gothic Revival style. The church has a nave and side aisles, a centered arched entry, and an off-center 4-story bell tower at the southwest corner. In 1938, a parish hall was constructed and connected to the church by a hyphen.

The structure has an asphalt shingle, dual-pitch front-gable roof with five dormers on both roof planes. The church is of stone construction. All windows, including the dormer windows, are gothic-arch windows with stained glass, and there is a large gothic-arch window with a centered rose window on the south, or front elevation. The exposed elevations of the bell tower have gothic-arch windows on the first three stories and gothic-arch louvers on the top level. The west and east elevations have four gothic-arch windows, and a projecting bay at the rear of the church. The bay on the west elevation has a wood door and steps to grade.

The parish hall, which is oriented perpendicular to the church, has an asphalt shingle, front-gable roof, an arched entry, and buttresses on the south and north elevations. The parish hall is of stuccoed concrete block construction, and it is connected to the church at the southwest corner. The windows are 8-light casements, and there are two exit doors at the rear.

There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

The property is located at the corner of Charles Street and Church Street in downtown La Plata. There is a residence now used as an office to the west, and parking lots for county buildings to the north. There are some mature trees located in front of the church along Charles Street. The property's setting is downtown La Plata, along the heavily traveled main street.

8. Significance Survey No.: CH-62 (PACS C115)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
_prehistoric	_archaeology-prehistoric	_Community planning	_landscape architecture	_religion	
_1400-1499	_archeology-historic	_conservation	_law	_science	
_1500-1599	_agriculture	_economics	_literature	_sculpture	
_1600-1699	_architecture	_education	_military	_social/	
_1700-1799	_art	_engineering	_music	humanitarian	
_1800-1899	_commerce	_exploration/settlement	_philosophy	_theater	
x 1900-	_communication	_industry	_politics/government	_transportation	
		_invention		_other:	

Specific dates circa 1830, 1906 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: _A _B _C _D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: _A _B _C _D _E _F _G

Level of Significance: _national _state _local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Christ Episcopal Church was erected in downtown La Plata in 1906, using building materials from the previous Christ Episcopal Church, located in Port Tobacco. The congregation is one of the oldest in the area, originally established by act of the provincial assembly in 1692.

Religious architecture in the project area frequently melded vernacular residential building types with religious architectural elements such as bell towers and front-gable orientation. The degree of architectural pretension exhibited by the churches of the area depended upon congregation size, wealth, and denomination. The design of churches reflected both functional and symbolic concerns. Churches (as opposed to meeting houses) in the area, as well as the nation, almost invariably featured front-gables. The front-gable orientation was the logical exterior architectural accommodation of the lengthened nave so frequently utilized by denominations tracing their lineage ultimately to the Roman Catholic Church, rather than Eastern Orthodox Church. A bell tower not only called parishioners to worship, but also provided a visual symbol of the building's spiritual, rather than secular, function. Fenestration also frequently symbolized the building's function; rounded, Gothic arch, and pointed shapes helped distinguish the church from its secular neighbors.

Christ Episcopal Church was rebuilt in a Victorian Gothic Revival style. Most Catholic and Episcopalian churches built from 1845 to 1900 were built in the Gothic Revival style. The emergence of this style reflected the renewed religious intensity in the second quarter of the nineteenth century which is commonly referred to as the "Second Great Awakening". Religious leaders increasingly came to believe that the prevailing Greek Revival style was too pagan and that a more appropriate design would be one that harkened back to the religious spirit of the Middle Ages. Gothic Revival was also known as a picturesque style in that it rejected classical qualities and appealed to those which excited the Romantic mind. Vernacular Gothic Revival churches frequently featured pointed arches and a steeple but few of the embellishments found in urban examples. There was also an emphasis on verticality, which was achieved by steeply pitched roofs. The major variations involved the location of the steeple which, in turn, influenced the fenestration. Churches with the steeple located at the center of the facade have symmetrical fenestration with a three bay organization. They sometimes have an exposed gable in which the steeple is set behind the gable which is then frequently ornamented with stickwork.

8. Significance (Continued)

shingling, or a round window. Placing the steeple away from the center of the facade resulted in asymmetrical fenestration and allowed room for paired windows or a triple window. The most elaborate variation featured a pair of steeples one located on each side of the church (Gottfried 1988: 250-254).

Christ Episcopal Church is located in Charles County in southern Maryland. The Native American inhabitants of southern Maryland from the Piscataway and Potobac nations were joined by European settlers beginning in 1634 with the establishment of St. Mary's City by Leonard Calvert. Successive waves of colonists took up tracts of land further inland from the Chesapeake Bay along the Patuxent and Potomac rivers and their tributaries. Charles County was formed in 1658 and Prince George's County was established in 1696. Settlement was confined to inland areas until road clearing began in the mid-eighteenth century as a result of the establishment of port towns and Maryland's rising population. Tobacco cultivation dominated the economic and social life of both Charles and Prince George's counties until the mid-nineteenth century when soil exhaustion necessitated agricultural diversification. The introduction of rail lines in 1873 linked Prince George's and Charles counties with the surrounding area, encouraging trade and settlement. While the suburbanization of Prince George's and Charles counties was ensured by the widespread availability of the automobile in the mid-twentieth century, these southern Maryland counties have also retained their rural and agricultural character.

8. Significance (Continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION

Christ Episcopal Church is a contributing resource within the La Plata Historic District (CH-326). Christ Episcopal Church is eligible under Criterion A, as being both a significant landmark in La Plata and the home church to one of the oldest congregations in the area. The ca. 1830 church had been relocated to La Plata from Port Tobacco in 1906 and has remained an important landmark within La Plata since the beginning of the 20th century. In addition, the Christ Episcopal Church is eligible under Criterion C, as a good example of the Victorian Gothic Revival in Southern Maryland. The church was constructed using building materials from the previous Christ Episcopal Church located in Port Tobacco and the building's design was a reflection of the functional and symbolic concerns of that time. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. Criterion D was not assessed during this study.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
Eligibility Recommended_____ **Eligibility Not Recommended**_____
Comments:_____

Reviewer, OPS: _____ Date:_____
Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: _____

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No.: CH-62 (PACS C115)

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property __
Quadrangle name La Plata, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caroline Hall/Ryan McKay/Simone M. Moffett
organization P.A.C. Spero & Company/EHT Traceries, Inc. date September 1996/revised November 1998/February 2000
street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412/5420 Western Avenue telephone (410) 296-1635/(301)656-5283
city or town Baltimore/Chevy Chase state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Retired Teachers Association. A Legacy: One- and Two-Room Schools in Charles County. La Plata: Dick Wildes Publishing Company, 1984.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jennings, Jan. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press. 1988.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown, and Paul Dennis Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Martenet, Simon J. Martenet's Map of Maryland, Atlas Edition. Baltimore, 1866.

Maryland Geological Survey. [1840] Map of Eastern Maryland with 1860 Additions. Copy on file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

Rivoire, J. Richard. Homeplaces, Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Southern Maryland Studies Center, 1990.

Wearmouth, John M. Charles County Railroad. An unpublished paper on deposit at the Prince George's County Historical Society. August 1984.

Ibid. La Plata, Maryland, 1888-1988, 100 Years, The Heart of Charles County. La Plata: Town of La Plata, 1988.

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: CH-62 (PACS C115) **Construction Date:** circa 1830, 1906

Name: Christ Episcopal Church

Location: 100 Block of Charles Street, La Plata, Charles County

Private/Religious/Occupied/Excellent/Restricted

Description:

Christ Episcopal Church was previously inventoried by the Maryland Historical Trust in the 1970s; however, an extensive survey form was not completed. Christ Episcopal Church is a 1½-story Victorian Gothic Revival Church on the north side of Charles Street in downtown La Plata, Charles County. The church was originally constructed circa 1830 next to the courthouse in the town of Port Tobacco, replacing an earlier church destroyed in a storm. In 1906, after the Charles County seat had been moved from Port Tobacco to La Plata, the church was dismantled, moved to La Plata, and rebuilt in the Victorian Gothic Revival style. The church has a nave and side aisles, a centered arched entry, and an off-center 4-story bell tower at the southwest corner. In 1938, a parish hall was constructed and connected to the church by a hyphen. The structure has an asphalt shingle, dual-pitch front-gable roof with five dormers on both roof planes. The church is of stone construction. All windows, including the dormer windows, are gothic-arch windows with stained glass, and there is a large gothic-arch window with a centered rose window on the south, or front elevation. The exposed elevations of the bell tower have gothic-arch windows on the first three stories and gothic-arch louvers on the top level. The west and east elevations have four gothic-arch windows, and a projecting bay at the rear of the church. The bay on the west elevation has a wood door and steps to grade. The parish hall, which is oriented perpendicular to the church, has an asphalt shingle, front-gable roof, an arched entry, and buttresses on the south and north elevations. The parish hall is of stuccoed concrete block construction, and it is connected to the church at the southwest corner. The windows are 8-light casements, and there are two exit doors at the rear.

Significance:

Christ Episcopal Church was erected in downtown La Plata in 1906, using building materials from the previous Christ Episcopal Church, located in Port Tobacco. The congregation is one of the oldest in the area, originally established by act of the provincial assembly in 1692. The structures are undistinctive examples of a common architectural style which have been altered by additions. The rebuilt Christ Episcopal Church does not represent a distinctive example of a late Victorian Gothic church.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
.S. 301 South Corridor Transportation Study

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Christ Episcopal Church

and/or common

2. Location:

street & number 100 Block of Charles Street ___ not for publication

city, town La Plata ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Charles

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___district	___public	_x_occupied	___agriculture	___museum
_x_building(s)	_x_private	___unoccupied	___commercial	___park
___structure	___both	___work in progress	___education	___private residence
___site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___entertainment	_x_religious
___object	___in process	_x_yes: restricted	___government	___scientific
	___being considered	___yes: unrestricted	___industrial	___other:
	_x_not applicable	___no	___military	
			___transportation	

4. Owner of Property: (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Vestry of Port Tobacco Parish

street & number P.O. Box 760 telephone no.:

city,town La Plata state and zip code MD 20646

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Charles County liber 15

street & number 101 Catalpa Drive folio 129

city,town La Plata state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Sites in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties

date 1980 ___federal _x_state ___county ___local

epository/survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city,town Crownsville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No.: CH-62 (PACS C115)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
(_excellent	___deteriorated	___unaltered	___original site	
___good	___ruins	_x_altered	_x_moved	date of move _1906_
___fair	___unexposed			

Resource Count: 1

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Christ Episcopal Church was previously inventoried by the Maryland Historical Trust in the 1970s; however, an extensive survey form was not completed. Christ Episcopal Church is a 1½-story Victorian Gothic Revival Church on the north side of Charles Street in downtown La Plata, Charles County. The church was originally constructed circa 1830 next to the courthouse in the town of Port Tobacco, replacing an earlier church destroyed in a storm. In 1906, after the Charles County seat had been moved from Port Tobacco to La Plata, the church was dismantled, moved to La Plata, and rebuilt in the Victorian Gothic Revival style. The church has a nave and side aisles, a centered arched entry, and an off-center 4-story bell tower at the southwest corner. In 1938, a parish hall was constructed and connected to the church by a hyphen.

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There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

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8. Significance

Survey No.: CH-62 (PACS C115)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
_prehistoric	__archaeology-prehistoric	__Community planning	__landscape architecture	__religion	
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__1500-1599	__agriculture	__economics	__literature	__sculpture	
__1600-1699	__architecture	__education	__military	__social/	
__1700-1799	__art	__engineering	__music	humanitarian	
__1800-1899	__commerce	__exploration/settlement	__philosophy	__theater	
x_1900-	__communication	__industry	__politics/government	__transportation	
		__invention		__other:	

Specific dates circa 1830, 1906 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state ___local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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8. Significance (Continued)

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8. Significance (Continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION

Christ Episcopal Church is a contributing resource within the proposed La Plata Historic District (CH-326).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility Recommended X Eligibility Not Recommended _____

Comments: _____

Reviewer, OPS: _____ Date: 10/29/98

Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: 11/4/98

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No.: CH-62 (PACS C115)

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name La Plata, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Caroline Hall/Ryan McKay
organization	P.A.C. Spero & Company
date	September 1996/revised November 1998
street & number	40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412
telephone	(410) 296-1635
city or town	Baltimore
state	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

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Charles County Retired Teachers Association. A Legacy: One- and Two-Room Schools in Charles County. La Plata: Dick Wildes Publishing Company, 1984.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jennings, Jan. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown, and Paul Dennis Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Martenet, Simon J. Martenet's Map of Maryland, Atlas Edition. Baltimore, 1866.

Maryland Geological Survey. [1840] Map of Eastern Maryland with 1860 Additions. Copy on file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

ivoire, J. Richard. Homeplaces, Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Southern Maryland Studies Center, 1990.

Wearmouth, John M. Charles County Railroad. An unpublished paper on deposit at the Prince George's County Historical Society. August 1984.

Ibid. La Plata, Maryland, 1888-1988, 100 Years, The Heart of Charles County. La Plata: Town of La Plata, 1988.

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Christ Episcopal Church; CH-62 (PACS C115)
100 Block of Charles Street, La Plata, Charles County

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture; Religion

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Buildings; Private Ownership; Public Acquisition - Not applicable; Occupied; Not accessible; Church

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

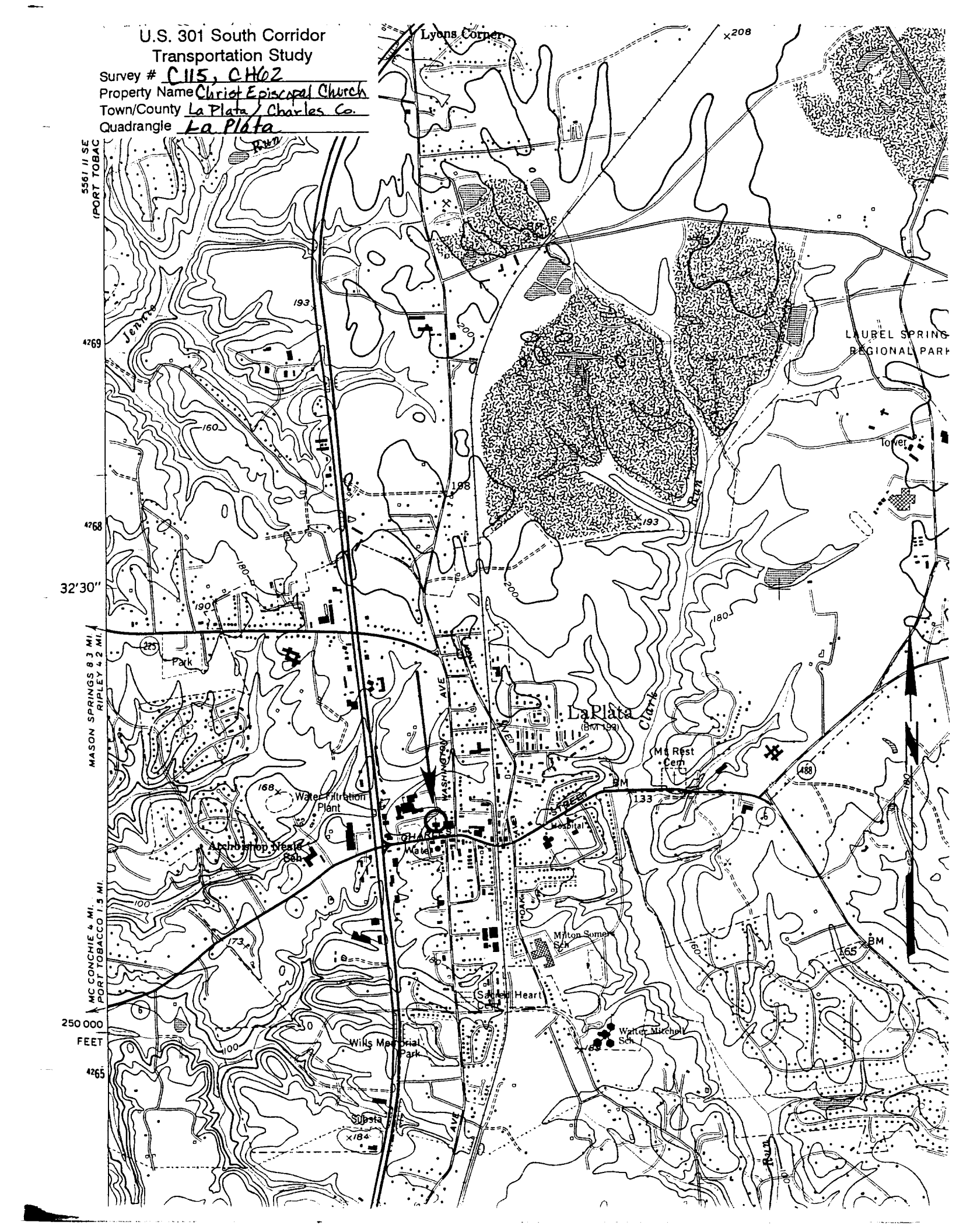
Church

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

U.S. 301 South Corridor
Transportation Study

Survey # C115, CH62
Property Name Christ Episcopal Church
Town/County La Plata / Charles Co.
Quadrangle La Plata



1 CH-62

2 Christ Episcopal Church
Charles County, MD

3 Ryan McKay, 9/96

4 P.A.C. Spero and Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, #412 Baltimore, MD 21204

5 100 Block of Charles Street East and South elevations of church Northwest view

6 1 of 4

1 CH-62

2 Christ Episcopal Church, Charles County, MD

3 Ryan Mckay, 9/96

4 P.A.C. Spero and Company 40 West Chesapeake Ave, #412 Baltimore, MD 21204

5 100 Block of Charles Street West elevation of Church East view

6 4 of 4

Charles County, MD

100 Block of Charles Street
East elevation of Church West view

6 2 of 4

CHRIST CHURCH DAY SCHOOL
&
PARISH HOUSE
(301) 843-8265

1. MD-02

2. Christ Episcopal Church
Charles County, MD

3. Ryan Mckay

4. RA

5. 100 Block of Charles Street
East elevation of Parish House

6. West view

6 3 of 4

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
U.S. 301 South Corridor Transportation Study

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Christ Episcopal Church

and/or common

2. Location:

street & number 100 Block of Charles Street ___ not for publication

city, town La Plata ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Charles

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___district	___public	_x_occupied	___agriculture	___museum
_x_building(s)	_x_private	___unoccupied	___commercial	___park
___structure	___both	___work in progress	___education	___private residence
___site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___entertainment	
___object	___in process	_x_yes: restricted	___government	_x_religious
	___being considered	___yes: unrestricted	___industrial	___scientific
	_x_not applicable	___no	___military	___other:
			___transportation	

4. Owner of Property: (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Vestry of Port Tobacco Parish

street & number P.O. Box 760 telephone no.:

city,town La Plata state and zip code MD 20646

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Charles County liber 15

street & number 101 Catalpa Drive folio 129

city,town La Plata state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Sites in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties

date 1980 ___federal _x_state ___county ___local

epository/survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city,town Crownsville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No.: CH-62 (PACS C115)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
_excellent	___deteriorated	___unaltered	___original site	
___good	___ruins	_x_altered	_x_moved	date of move _1906_
___fair	___unexposed			

Resource Count: 1

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Christ Episcopal Church was previously inventoried by the Maryland Historical Trust in the 1970s; however, an extensive survey form was not completed. Christ Episcopal Church is a 1½-story Victorian Gothic Revival Church on the north side of Charles Street in downtown La Plata, Charles County. The church was originally constructed circa 1830 next to the courthouse in the town of Port Tobacco, replacing an earlier church destroyed in a storm. In 1906, after the Charles County seat had been moved from Port Tobacco to La Plata, the church was dismantled, moved to La Plata, and rebuilt in the Victorian Gothic Revival style. The church has a nave and side aisles, a centered arched entry, and an off-center 4-story bell tower at the southwest corner. In 1938, a parish hall was constructed and connected to the church by a hyphen.

The structure has an asphalt shingle, dual-pitch front-gable roof with five dormers on both roof planes. The church is of stone construction. All windows, including the dormer windows, are gothic-arch windows with stained glass, and there is a large gothic-arch window with a centered rose window on the south, or front elevation. The exposed elevations of the bell tower have gothic-arch windows on the first three stories and gothic-arch louvers on the top level. The west and east elevations have four gothic-arch windows, and a projecting bay at the rear of the church. The bay on the west elevation has a wood door and steps to grade.

The parish hall, which is oriented perpendicular to the church, has an asphalt shingle, front-gable roof, an arched entry, and buttresses on the south and north elevations. The parish hall is of stuccoed concrete block construction, and it is connected to the church at the southwest corner. The windows are 8-light casements, and there are two exit doors at the rear.

There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

The property is located at the corner of Charles Street and Church Street in downtown La Plata. There is a residence now used as an office to the west, and parking lots for county buildings to the north. There are some mature trees located in front of the church along Charles Street. The property's setting is downtown La Plata, along the heavily travelled main street.

8. Significance

Survey No.: CH-62 (PACS C115)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
__prehistoric	__archaeology-prehistoric	__Community planning	__landscape architecture	__religion	
__1400-1499	__archeology-historic	__conservation	__law	__science	
__1500-1599	__agriculture	__economics	__literature	__sculpture	
__1600-1699	__architecture	__education	__military	__social/ humanitarian	
__1700-1799	__art	__engineering	__music	__theater	
__1800-1899	__commerce	__exploration/settlement	__philosophy	__transportation	
x 1900-	__communication	__industry	__politics/government	__other:	
		__invention			

Specific dates circa 1830, 1906 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state ___local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Christ Episcopal Church was erected in downtown La Plata in 1906, using building materials from the previous Christ Episcopal Church, located in Port Tobacco. The congregation is one of the oldest in the area, originally established by act of the provincial assembly in 1692.

Religious architecture in the project area frequently melded vernacular residential building types with religious architectural elements such as bell towers and front-gable orientation. The degree of architectural pretention exhibited by the churches of the area depended upon congregation size, wealth, and denomination. The design of churches reflected both functional and symbolic concerns. Churches (as opposed to meeting houses) in the area, as well as the nation, almost invariably featured front-gables. The front-gable orientation was the logical exterior architectural accommodation of the lengthened nave so frequently utilized by denominations tracing their lineage ultimately to the Roman Catholic Church, rather than Eastern Orthodox Church. A bell tower not only called parishioners to worship, but also provided a visual symbol of the building's spiritual, rather than secular, function. Fenestration also frequently symbolized the building's function; rounded, Gothic arch, and pointed shapes helped distinguish the church from its secular neighbors.

Christ Episcopal Church was rebuilt in a Victorian Gothic Revival style. Most Catholic and Episcopalian churches built from 1845 to 1900 were built in the Gothic Revival style. The emergence of this style reflected the renewed religious intensity in the second quarter of the nineteenth century which is commonly referred to as the "Second Great Awakening". Religious leaders increasingly came to believe that the prevailing Greek Revival style was too pagan and that a more appropriate design would be one that harkened back to the religious spirit of the Middle Ages. Gothic Revival was also known as a picturesque style in that it rejected classical qualities and appealed to those which excited the Romantic mind. Vernacular Gothic Revival churches frequently featured pointed arches and a steeple but few of the embellishments found in urban examples. There was also an emphasis on verticality, which was achieved by steeply pitched roofs. The major variations involved the location of the steeple which, in turn, influenced the fenestration. Churches with the steeple located at the center of the facade have symmetrical fenestration with a three bay organization. They sometimes have an exposed gable in which the steeple is set behind the gable which is then frequently ornamented with stickwork,

8. Significance (Continued)

shingling, or a round window. Placing the steeple away from the center of the facade resulted in asymmetrical fenestration and allowed room for paired windows or a triple window. The most elaborate variation featured a pair of steeples one located on each side of the church (Gottfried 1988: 250-254).

Christ Episcopal Church is located in Charles County in southern Maryland. The Native American inhabitants of southern Maryland from the Piscataway and Potobac nations were joined by European settlers beginning in 1634 with the establishment of St. Mary's City by Leonard Calvert. Successive waves of colonists took up tracts of land further inland from the Chesapeake Bay along the Patuxent and Potomac rivers and their tributaries. Charles County was formed in 1658 and Prince George's County was established in 1696. Settlement was confined to inland areas until road clearing began in the mid-eighteenth century as a result of the establishment of port towns and Maryland's rising population. Tobacco cultivation dominated the economic and social life of both Charles and Prince George's counties until the mid-nineteenth century when soil exhaustion necessitated agricultural diversification. The introduction of rail lines in 1873 linked Prince George's and Charles counties with the surrounding area, encouraging trade and settlement. While the suburbanization of Prince George's and Charles counties was ensured by e widespread availability of the automobile in the mid-twentieth century, these southern aryland counties have also retained their rural and agricultural character.

8. Significance (Continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION

Christ Episcopal Church, constructed circa 1830, moved and rebuilt in 1906, was previously inventoried by the Maryland Historical Trust in the 1970s. The church is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an undistinctive example of a common architectural style and it has been altered by side additions. The parish house, constructed in 1938, is also an undistinctive example of a common architectural style. The church must be evaluated as an early twentieth century building, and it does not represent a distinctive example of a late Victorian Gothic church. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No.: CH-62 (PACS C115)

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name La Plata, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

me/title Caroline Hall/Ryan McKay

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company date September 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412 telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Retired Teachers Association. A Legacy: One- and Two-Room Schools in Charles County. La Plata: Dick Wildes Publishing Company, 1984.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jennings, Jan. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown, and Paul Dennis Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Martenet, Simon J. Martenet's Map of Maryland, Atlas Edition. Baltimore, 1866.

Maryland Geological Survey. [1840] Map of Eastern Maryland with 1860 Additions. Copy on file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

voire, J. Richard. Homeplaces, Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Southern Maryland Studies Center, 1990.

Wearmouth, John M. Charles County Railroad. An unpublished paper on deposit at the Prince George's County Historical Society. August 1984.

Ibid. La Plata, Maryland, 1888-1988, 100 Years, The Heart of Charles County. La Plata: Town of La Plata, 1988.

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Christ Episcopal Church; CH-62 (PACS C115)
100 Block of Charles Street, La Plata, Charles County

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture; Religion

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Buildings; Private Ownership; Public Acquisition - Not applicable; Occupied; Not accessible; Church

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Church

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

N. R. FIELD SHEET CH 62

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: CHRIST CHURCH, PORT TOBACCO PARISH

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: CHARLES ST. (RTE. 6)

CITY OR TOWN: LA PLATA

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
MD.		CHAS.	

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District ☐ Building ☒	Public ☒	Public Acquisition:	Occupied ☒	Yes:
Site ☐ Structure ☐	Private ☐	In Process ☐	Unoccupied ☐	Restricted ☐
Object ☐	Both ☐	Being Considered ☐	Preservation work in progress ☐	Unrestricted ☒
				No: ☐

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Agricultural	☐	Government	☐	Park	☐	Transportation	☐
Commercial	☐	Industrial	☐	Private Residence	☐	Other *(Specify)*	☐
Educational	☐	Military	☐	Religious	☒		
Entertainment	☐	Museum	☐	Scientific	☐		

Comments ☐

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MD.

STREET AND NUMBER: ST. ALBANS

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
WASHINGTON D.C.		

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: CHARLES CO.

STREET AND NUMBER:

EPISCOPAL DIOCESAN COLL.
MARYLAND HIST. SOC.
201 W. MONUMENT ST.
BALTIMORE, MD.

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
LA PLATA	MD.	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

STATE: | COUNTY: | ENTRY NUMBER | DATE | FOR NPS USE ONLY

N. R. FIELD SHEET

CH-62

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) Excellent ☑ Good ☐ Foir ☐ Deterioroted ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed ☐	
INTEGRITY	(Check One) Altered ☐ Unoltered ☑	(Check One) Moved ☑ Originol Site ~~☐~~

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (*If known*) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CMT STONE CONSTRUCTION
"A" ROOF & FLARE AT SIDES TO ALLOW SIDE AISLES – (LATER ADDITION). ROOF RIDGE RUNS N TO S. RIDGE 2 STOREYS & AISLE ADDITION EAVES 1 STOREY,
6 BAYS FRONT. (D. W. D. W. W. W.)
LARGE ARCHED "(GOTHIC)" WINDOW AT ATTIC LEVEL (S. ELE.)
SQUARE BELL TOWER. 2 STOREYS. AT S.W. CORNER. LOUVERED OPENINGS AT 4 SIDES TOP.
ROOF ASPHALT SHINGLE
4 BAYS E+W SIDE 1ST. FLOOR LEVEL - "GOTHIC" ARCHED.
4 DORMERS E+W - PEAKED "A" FRAME "GOTHIC"
NEW MASONRY PARISH HALL AT REAR (N) OF CHURCH - CONNECTED TO CHURCH BY HYPHEN.
PARISH HOUSE (PARSONAGE) TO W SIDE.
SOME STONES CUT WITH INITIALS + DATES PRIOR TO REVOLUTION.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

N. R. FIELD SHEET

CH-62

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Pre-Columbian ☐	16th Century ☐	18th Century ☐	20th Century ☐
15th Century ☐	17th Century ☐	19th Century ☑	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	Education ☐	Political ☐	Urban Planning ☐
Prehistoric ☐	Engineering ☐	Religion/Phi-	Other *(Specify)* ☐
Historic ☐	Industry ☐	losophy ☑	
Agriculture ☐	Invention ☐	Science ☐	
Art ☐	Landscope	Sculpture ☐	
Commerce ☐	Architecture ☐	Social/Human-	
Communications ☐	Literoture ☐	itarian ☐	
Conservation ☐	Military ☐	Theater ☐	
	Music ☐	Transportation ☐	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)*

Pres. stone structure (West side aisles + tower) of ca. 19th. Cent. Orig. replacing earlier church of brick (?).

Moved stone by stone by ox cart from Port Tobacco to La Plata ca. 1905 when county seat changed. Retains same position (location) it held in Port Tobacco to courthouse there.

One of Orig. Md. Parishes Est. in Md. 1692.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

N. R. FIELD SHEET

CH-62

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE	
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard Rivoire

ORGANIZATION: M.H.T.

DATE:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Annap.

STATE: Md.

CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

_____

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____

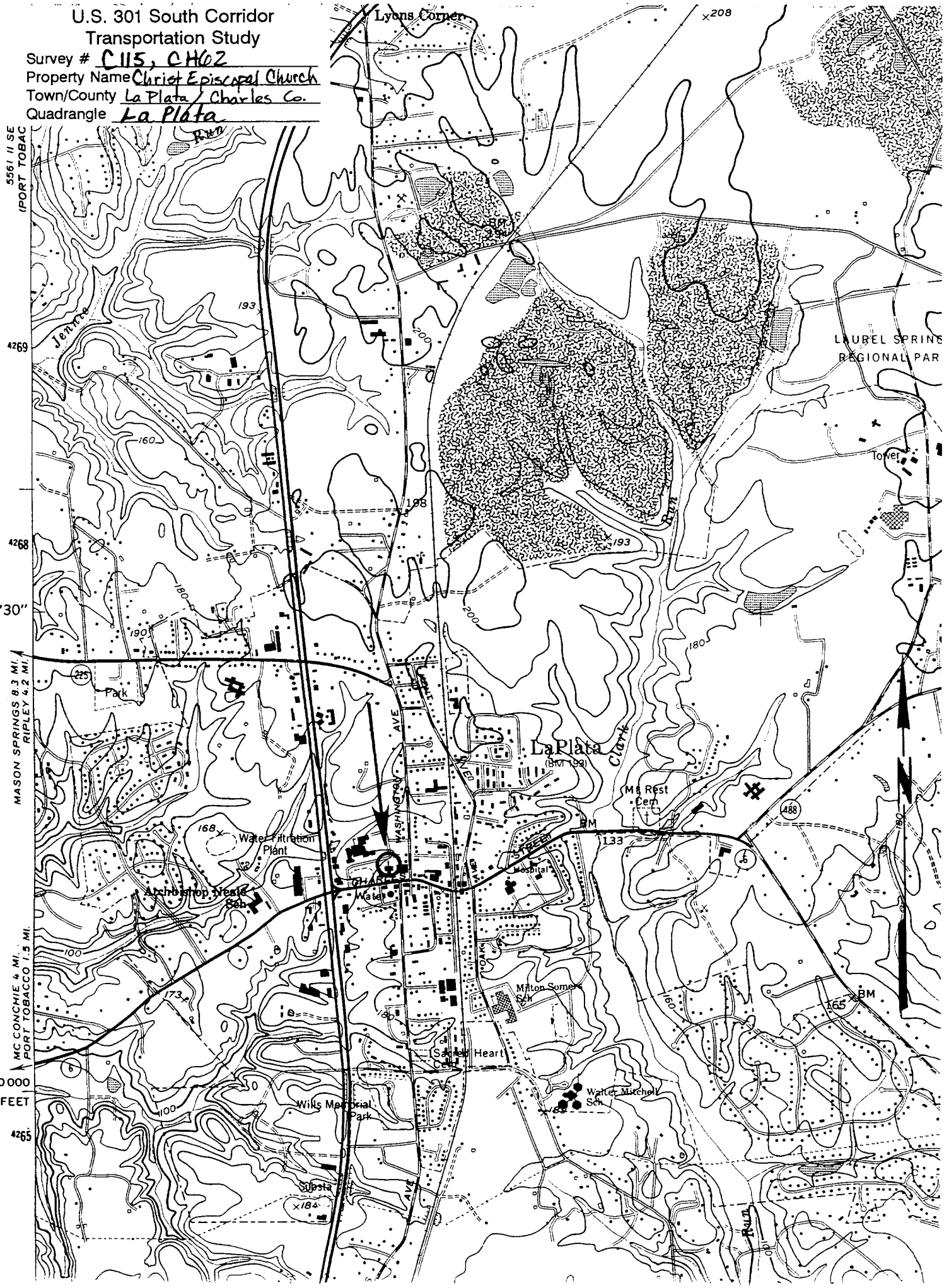
Keeper of The National Register

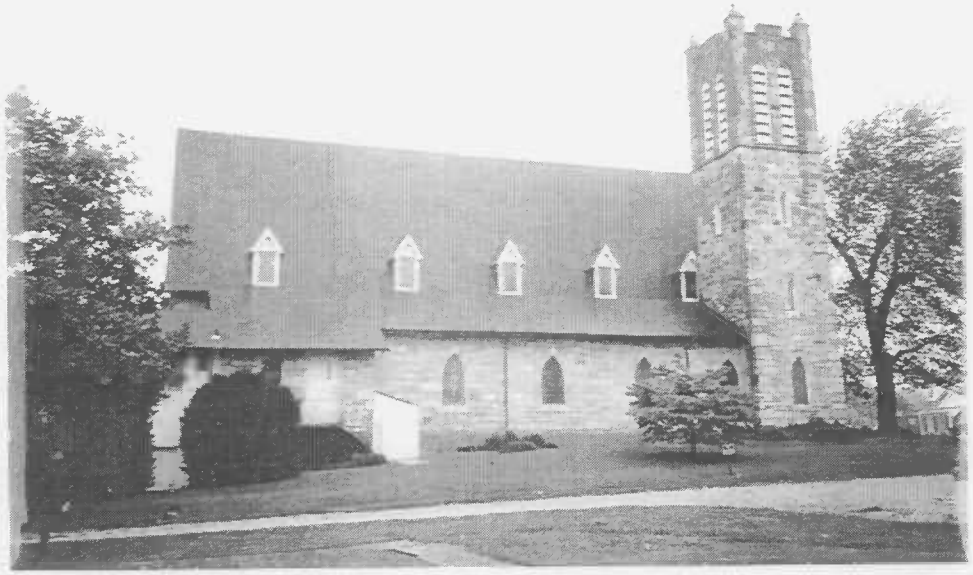
Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

U.S. 301 South Corridor
Transportation Study

Survey # C115, CH62
Property Name Christ Episcopal Church
Town/County La Plata / Charles Co.
Quadrangle La Plata





CH-62